has been adopted beginning with elimination of child labour from hazardous occupations. So far, National Child Labour Projects for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work have been sanctioned in 100 child labour endemic districts in the country. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in 13 occupations and 57 processes.

(c) India was the first country to join ILO's International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in 1992. The action programmes taken up under IPEC cover areas such as awareness raising, rehabilitation and education. 165 action programmes have been taken up under IPEC from 1992 to till date, for coverage of about 90,000 children. 17 projects are under implementation in the country as on June 2001.

Utilisation of MPLADS Fund

*458. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made for widening the scope and guidelines for utilising the MPLADS funds specifying the nature of projects to be funded therewith; and

(b) if so, whether the guidelines have been widened and in respect of which schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Guidelines on MPLADS are under constant review. Suggestions received from the Members of Parliament for amendments to the Guidelines are considered in consultation with the MPLADS Committees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and on the basis of their recommendations, necessary changes are brought in the Guidelines.

(b) Recently, Guidelines have been amended to allow works belonging to registered societies & trusts and vesting the ownership only of the assets created out of MPLADS funds in Government in lieu of transfer of land.

Reservation for SC/ST/OBC in Armed Forces

†*459. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to provide

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Appointments and selection to Armed Forces are made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of Caste, Community, area or class is provided.

Sainik Recruitment Boards

†*460. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Sainik Recruitment Boards exist;

(b) whether Government propose to set-up a Women Sainik Recruitment Board in Bihar for motivating contribution of Women in the Army; and

(c) if so, by when and at which places?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The States where the recruitment offices for recruitment of Personnel Below Officers Rank/Sailors/Airmen exist in respect of Army, Navy and Air Force are enumerated below:

ARMY

Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Nagaland, Orissa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

NAVY

Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar,